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SIPDIS

WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0884

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 01856

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -- SECTION 2 DUPLICATE TEXT OMITTED

USVIENNA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREF PHUM HR PHUM HR BK](#)

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA - REPORTED RAPES OF YOUNG MUSLIM WOMEN

1. A TWO-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE SEPT 25 EDITION OF THE ZAGREB WEEKLY "GLOBUS" REPORTS THAT A GROUP OF FORTY YOUNG WOMEN FROM THE MUSLIM-POPULATED TOWN OF BREZOVO POLJE, NORTH OF SARAJEVO, WERE BRUTALIZED AND

REPEATEDLY RAPED IN MAY OF THIS YEAR BY SERBIAN SOLDIERS. THE WOMEN, NINE OF WHOM ARE SHOWN IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH THEIR MOTHERS AND SEVERAL OF THE MOST HEAVILY QUOTED OF WHOM ARE SHOWN IN INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS, ARE NOW IN A DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP IN TUZLA. THERE A "GLOBUS" JOURNALIST INTERVIEWED THEM, ALONG WITH DR. MELIKA KREITMAYER, IDENTIFIED AS THE HEAD OF A GROUP OF GYNECOLOGISTS SENT BY THE UN TO B-H TO INVESTIGATE REPORTED CASES OF "BODILY ATTACKS" ON THE PART OF SERBS.

2. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE VIOLENCE DONE TO MIRSADA DIDOVIC (23 YEARS OF AGE), ALMIRA AJANOVIC (18), JASMINA FERIC (20), SEVLETA AJANOVIC (18), TWO  
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MINORS IDENTIFIED AS MEJRA (17) AND ZIBA (17), AND NUMEROUS OTHERS WHO WOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR NAMES TO BE REVEALED. THE WOMEN INTERVIEWED GAVE SIMILAR ACCOUNTS OF HOW SERBIAN SOLDIERS HAD ENTERED THEIR TOWN IN MAY, FORCED THEIR WAY INTO MUSLIM HOMES, TAKEN THE MOST ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN FROM THEIR FAMILIES, AND JAILED THEM. GROUPS OF SERBIAN SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY THEN RAPED THEM OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL DAYS. ONE VICTIM, ALMIRA AJANOVIC, WAS REPORTEDLY GANG RAPED IN FRONT OF HER FATHER, WHO WAS HIMSELF GAGGED AND BOUND BY WIRE. ANOTHER, JASMINA FERIC, REPORTEDLY WITNESSED THE SLITTING OF HER FATHER'S THROAT AND THE SHOOTING OF HER MOTHER BEFORE SHE WAS GANG RAPED BY NINE SOLDIERS FOR THREE DAYS.

3. THROUGH QUOTES FROM DR. KREITMAYER AND SEVERAL OF THE VICTIMS, WHO IN TURN QUOTED THEIR ATTACKERS, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT GROSS VIOLENCE AGAINST AND HUMILIATION OF MUSLIM WOMEN WAS NOT A HAPPENSTANCE OF WAR OR MERELY THE ISOLATED ACTS OF CRAZED SOLDIERS. RATHER, IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY PART OF A DELIBERATE SERBIAN STRATEGY TO SOW TERROR IN THE MUSLIM POPULATION.

4. DR. KREITMAYER IS REPORTED TO HAVE PHYSICALLY EXAMINED THE WOMEN, SOME OF WHOM HAD BECOME PREGNANT AND ABORTED.

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CAVEAT  
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5. WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO CORROBORATE THESE ALLEGATIONS. THE SOURCE FOR THE ABOVE REPORT, "GLOBUS," TENDS HEAVILY TO THE SENSATIONALIST, BUT NEVERTHELESS REGULARLY PROVIDES "EXCLUSIVE" REPORTAGE WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE. THIS STORY CONTAINS ENOUGH

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	CISA-02
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PRS-01	P-01
	RP-10	SDEL-01	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01	SSO-00	SS-00

STR-18 TRSE-00 /082W

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O 290959Z SEP 92  
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2200  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USVIENNA  
USIA WASHDC 2114  
USEC BRUSSELS

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WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0885

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NAMES, DATES, PLACES, AND OTHER SPECIFICS --  
INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF QUOTED VICTIMS -- TO APPEAR CREDIBLE. ALLEGATIONS OF MASS RAPES BY SERBIAN SOLDIERS IN B-H ARE NOT NEW, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH STORY WE HAVE SEEN WITH SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED  
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AND QUOTED VICTIMS.

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